Amendments to the Drawings

Applicant has amended Figure 1 to include the designation of "(Prior art)." Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner accept the enclosed replacement page indicating this change. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to amended Figure 1.

Response to Office Action Mailed June 10, 2010

A. Claims In The Case

Claims 1-17 have been rejected. Claims 1, 16, and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-17 are pending in the case.

B. Drawing Objections

Applicant has amended Figure 1 to include the designation "(Prior art)".

C. Claim Objections

Claims 16 and 17 were objected to for having improper dependences. Applicant has amended claims 16 and 17 for clarification.

D. The Claims Are Not Anticipated By Takahashi Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6, 9, and 11 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,980,218 to Takahashi et al. ("Takahashi"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

The standard for "anticipation" is one of fairly strict identity. A claim can only be anticipated if each and every element set forth in the claims is found to be either expressly or inherently described in the cited art. *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 728, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987), MPEP §2131.

Claim 1 describes a combination of features including but not limited to the feature of:

> wherein the motor and each compressor is mounted in a common housing sealed against the gas handled by the compressor unit;

Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the other features of Applicant's claim 1, is not taught or suggested by Takahashi.

The Office Action states that:

> Takahashi discloses a centrifugal compressor unit comprising a motor 2 driving a rotor and at least one compressor 1a, 1b with a stator body (the non-rotating portion of centrifugal compressor) and impellers 28a, 28b driven by the rotor, the motor and compressors mounted in a common housing (see fig. 2) sealed against the outside.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. FIG. 2 of Takahashi depicts a top plan view, a front view, and a cross-sectional view of a multi-stage compressor. Applicant notes that the components of the multi-stage compressor depicted in FIG. 2 of Takahashi appear to be mounted onto a common platform. Takahashi, however, does not appear to teach or suggest that the multi-stage compressor is "in a common housing sealed against the gas handled by the compression unit." Applicant submits that the multi-stage compressor of FIG. 2 of Takahashi does not appear to be in a housing. Furthermore, the multi-stage compressor of FIG. 2 of Takahashi does not appear to be sealed against the gas handled by the compression unit. In fact, it appears that the muti-stage compressor is simply disposed in an open-air environment. For example, referring to FIG. 2 of Takahashi, inlet 7 of the device appears to be in the same environment as motor 2 and compressors 1a and 1b.

Applicant submits that Takahashi fails to teach all of the features of Applicant's claims,

including but not limited to, the feature where "the motor and each compressor is mounted in a common housing sealed against the gas handled by the compressor unit."

Applicant's claim 1 further includes, but is not limited to, the feature of "cooling means for cooling the motor means and the guide bearings by tapping off some of the gas handled by the compressor at an outlet from a first compression stage." Applicant notes that Takahashi appears to teach that cooling gas is extracted from the first stage compressor and the second stage compressor.

E. <u>The Claims Are Not Obvious Over The Cited Art Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)</u>

The Office Action has rejected claims 5 and 12-16 as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,464,469 to Grob et al. For at least the same reasons cited above, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 12-16 are allowable over the cited art.

The Office Action has rejected claims 7 and 8 as being unpatentable over Takahashi. For at least the same reasons cited above, Applicant submits that claims 7 and 8 are allowable over the cited art.

The Office Action has rejected claims 10 and 17 as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. For at least the same reasons cited above, Applicant submits that claims 10 and 17 are allowable over the cited art.

F. Many Of The Dependent Claims Are Separately Patentable

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to separately consider each of the dependent claims for patentability. Many of the dependent claims in addition to those mentioned above are independently patentable.

For instance, claim 2 recites "wherein the cooling means further comprises a set of external lines collecting the gas on the outlet side of the first compression stage and feeding the internal passages in parallel." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 3 recites "wherein the internal passages for feeding the motor means are fed in parallel with the internal passages for feeding the bearings with cooling gas." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 4 recites "wherein the cooling means are equipped with filtering means for filtering the gas handled by the compressor." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 5 recites "wherein, with the driven shaft of the compressor supported by two end radial bearings, the cooling means comprise an axial passage running from one bearing to the other and fed at one of its ends by the external lines, and wherein the axial passage globally running longitudinally and radially externally through the compressor." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 6 recites "wherein the internal passages for feeding the bearings comprise a set of directional passages directed radially externally in the compressor, and wherein each internal passage feeds one bearing." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 7 recites "wherein the motor is fed with cooling gas via an orifice formed in an end cover and in communication with an external line." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 8 recites "wherein the internal passages for feeding the bearings comprise a set of directional passages directed radially externally in the compressor, and wherein each internal passage feeds one bearing, and wherein the motor is fed with cooling gas via an orifice formed in an end cover and in communication with an external line, and wherein the flow of cooling gas is mixed with the flow of cooling gas leaving the bearings cooled by the gas coming from the internal passages." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 9 recites includes "means for regulating a refrigeration flow rate for the motor and for each bearing." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 10 includes "means for collecting flows of cooling gas from members situated on a same side as an equalizing piston." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of claim 1, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

G. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated June 10, 2010. A fee authorization is enclosed for the extension of time fee. If any further extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5310-08800/EBM

Respectfully submitted,

/Eric B. Meyertons/

Eric B. Meyertons
Reg. No. 34,876

Attorney for Applicant

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P.O. BOX 398
AUSTIN, TX 78767-0398
(512) 853-8800 (voice)
(512) 853-8801 (facsimile)

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